



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday April 6, 2010

USAO Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

Former Background Investigator for Federal Government Receives Jail Sentence for Making a False Statement

WASHINGTON - Anthony J. Domico, a 67-year-old former contract investigator, who conducted federal background investigations on behalf of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management ("OPM"), was sentenced today to five months in prison followed by 150 days of home confinement for making a false statement, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. Domico, of Tinley Park, Illinois, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard W. Roberts, after pleading guilty in January of this year. The Court also ordered that, following his release from prison, Domico be placed on three years of supervised release, of which the 150 days of home detention is a part. In addition, the Court ordered Domico to pay a total of \$69,611.12 in restitution to OPM.

According to a factual proffer agreed to by Domico at the January plea hearing, Domico was employed by CACI International Inc. ("CACI") and Systems Application & Technologies, Inc. ("SA-TECH") as an investigator under contract to conduct background investigations on behalf of OPM. OPM's Federal Investigative Services ("FIS"), formerly known as the Center for Federal Investigative Services or the Federal Investigative Services Division, is responsible for conducting background investigations for numerous federal agencies and their contractors, on individuals either employed by or seeking employment with those agencies or contractors. FIS has an investigator workforce comprised of federal agents employed by FIS and investigators employed by various companies, such as CACI and SA-TECH, under contract with FIS to conduct background investigations. The purpose of the background investigations is to determine an individual's suitability for positions with access to classified information, that impact national security, or that require a security clearance.

In conducting background investigations, contract investigators conduct interviews of individuals who have information about the person who is the subject of the background investigation. In addition, contract investigators seek out, obtain, and review documentary evidence, such as employment records, to verify and corroborate information provided by either the subject of the background investigation or by persons interviewed during the investigation. After conducting interviews and obtaining documentary evidence, contract investigators prepare a Report of Investigation ("ROI"), containing the results of the interviews and document reviews,

and electronically submit the ROI to OPM in Washington, D.C. OPM then provides a copy of the investigative file to the requesting agency, which can use the information to determine an individual's eligibility for employment or a security clearance.

Between October 2005 and August 2006, in more than two dozen ROI's on background investigations, Domico represented that he had interviewed a source or reviewed a record regarding the subject of the background investigation when, in fact, he had not conducted the interview or obtained the records. For example, on April 4, 2006, in a ROI of a background investigation of W.H., Domico represented that he had interviewed J.A.S. about W.H. (and reported what J.A.S. had purportedly stated about W.H.), when, in fact, Domico could not have interviewed J.A.S. about W.H. because J.A.S. had died in 1994. On the same date, Domico electronically submitted his ROI to OPM on the background investigation of W.H., which contained this false representation.

Domico's false representations were material, as they influenced the government's decisions and activities with respect to the subjects of those background investigations. Domico's false representations have required FIS to reopen and rework numerous background investigations that were assigned to Domico during the time period of his falsifications, at an estimated cost of \$69,611.12 to the United States government.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the hard work of Special Agents Derek M. Holt and Shantel Robinson, OPM, Office of the Inspector General, and Philip Kroop, Chief, Integrity Assurance, FIS. Mr. Machen also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and Thomas E. Zeno, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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